# CLUB LIFE ECONOMIES

## POOR MEN IN THE SWELL ORGANIZATIONS OF NEW YORK.

**A Democracy Where All, Regardless of Income, Are Equal—Membership In a First Rate Club Regarded as a Profitable Investment.**

A good many country visitors are disappointed when they learn the sober truth that New York has no clubs composed exclusively of millionaires. It is harder still to make country folk believe that hundreds of men join the so called swell clubs in large part from motives of economy.

There are scarcely three clubs in the city that do not include a considerable number of poor men in their membership. The average income of the whole membership of the ten best known clubs in the city is probably nearer $10,000 a year than $50,000 a year, and almost every one of these clubs includes some scores of men with incomes well below $10,000 and a good many with incomes well below $5,000.

There is a real democracy of New York club life. Youths in their early twenties and just beginning their careers on very moderate salaries frequent truly palatial clubhouses, breakfast in rooms such as few princes ever use and lounge before fireplaces that are to be matched only in the most splendid buildings of Europe.

The poor man's credit at the club is as good as the rich man's, and both are impartially posted when they neglect to pay their bills in good season. There are a good many instances also in which the monthly bills of the poor man are higher than those of his rich fellow member, for the frequenters of clubs are apt to be the poorer rather than the richer members.

Many a man of small means regards his membership in a first rate club in the light of a profitable investment. Such a man, if a confirmed bachelor, has probably lived for twenty years within half a block of the club, paying a few hundreds a year for a small bedroom and finding all his luxuries in the apartments of the clubhouse.

Without being in the least mean he makes of the club a money saving institution for himself. Its comfortable lounging rooms save him annually from $300 to $1,000 a year in rent, according to the location in which he has his modest lodgings. After that he saves a fair percentage on everything he eats and drinks at the club.

His simple breakfast costs him perhaps 10 per cent less than it would cost at any restaurant he would be likely to frequent, and the same is true of his dinners. If he takes three-fourths of his meals at the club he saves annually about $100 in tips.

If he drinks wine at dinner he saves from 10 to 25 per cent upon every bottle. If he permits himself the luxury of a cab he saves a handsome percentage by ordering it through the club and avoids all possibility of a row with the cabby over the amount of the fare. Many a man writes all his letters of a social character and some of a business character at the club, and thus saves from $15 to $40 a year in stationery.

He need buy no books, nor need he subscribe to a library, for there is the club library free for his use. He never need buy a periodical or even a newspaper save when he travels, for all that he reads are freely supplied by the club. And the enjoyment of all these things imposes upon him no considerable expenditure for extravagant luxuries. He is sure, especially in the college clubs, to find plenty of men with like modest incomes and simple tastes as himself, and he may sit for hours with cronies over the cafe table without spending money that he cannot afford and without giving offense to the servants of the house committee.

Most club members probably do not keep a debit and credit account with the club, but the man of modest means and moderate habits would find the examination of such an account a matter of great satisfaction. Such a man, paying $250 as an entrance fee and $75 a year in dues, is likely to find himself at the end of twenty years a long way ahead of the game. The club in twenty years has cost him rather less than $2,000 for entrance fees, dues and contributions to the Christmas box, and his savings by reason of the club have been from $10,000 to $16,000.—New York Sun.

### A Sister's Love.

A Boston clergyman whose work takes him among the poor of that town tells a pretty story of sisterly love existing among the humble and unfortunate. One day a pale and ragged girl of about ten years was seen going along the street carrying on her back her crippled brother, nearly as old as she. A stranger stopped her by saying that she was overexerting herself. "He is too heavy for you to carry," he said. The child of the ghetto looked up at him reproachfully, saying: "He ain't heavy. He is my brother."

### A Biography In a Nutshell.

Born, welcomed, caressed, cried, fed, grew, amused, reared, studied, examined, graduated, in love, loved, engaged, married, quarreled, reconciled, suffered, deserted, taken ill, died, mourned, buried and forgotten.

# ORIGIN OF NEW YORK NAMES

**New Dorp Replaced a Town Thrice Destroyed by Fire.**

There are some names of places in Greater New York common enough on the modern tongue, but the origin of which is not so generally known. New Dorp, on Staten Island, was so named by the Dutch to distinguish it from Oude Dorp (Old Dorp), the first Dutch settlement on the island, which was thrice destroyed by the Indians. Old Dorp stood to the northwest of Fort Wadsworth, about where Arrochar now stands. Two miles to the west of the ruins of Old Dorp the persistent Dutch built their New Dorp.

The northeast section of Staten Island, which until the formation of Greater New York was known as Castleton, and is still generally so called, takes its name from the fact that it once formed Governor Dongan's "manor of Castleton." Dongan—the Dongan hills are named from him—was of the family of the Earl of Limerick, and the seat of the earl in Ireland was Castletown, in the County Kildare. Many of Governor Dongan's descendants still live on Staten Island, some of them occupying and owning houses on the land of the old manor. At first Governor Dongan merely had a hunting lodge on Staten Island, and it is significant of the state of that portion of New York city at the end of the seventeenth century that at a meeting of the colonial council the governor was entered on the minutes as "absent, being engaged at his hunting lodge on Staten Island killing bears."

Bedlow's island, on which the statue of Liberty stands, was purchased in 1716 by an Englishman named Bedlow who had amassed a large fortune in the East India trade and was an acquaintance of the then governor, the notorious Lord Cornbury. Bedlow received from Cornbury the privilege of victualing the British fleets which frequented New York. It was a most profitable monopoly, having in it great possibilities of graft. Cornbury is supposed to have "stood in" with Bedlow. When Bedlow died suddenly Cornbury seized all his papers, collected all the outstanding debts due the contractor, and kept everything of Bedlow's he could lay his hands on, leaving Bedlow's widow and children in poverty. Bedlow's island was bought and used by the contractor while he victualed the fleets as a depot for his stores.

Corlear's Hook takes its name from Jacob Corlear, the city trumpeter in the old Dutch days. Governor Beekman bought it from him. The governor also bought a country estate, the site of which is commemorated by Beekman street.

The true meaning of the word Manhattan, originally spelled variously as Mana-ha-ta, Manhattoes and Manhattan, is hid in mystery. It is not even certain whether it was the name of the place or of the tribe which inhabited it, or of both. The old idea that the word meant Place of Drunkenness has been satisfactorily confuted, but what does the word mean?—New York Press.

### An Oddity In Building.

"If you want to see an oddity," an undertaker said, "go to a cemetery and note how in the erection of old fashioned tombs they lower into place the marble slabs. These marble slabs are not lowered by means of a derrick. They are lowered by hand. The work is so delicate, you see, and it is so necessary not to chip the edges of the stones, that only hand work answers. You wonder, I suppose, how the men avoid pinching or crushing their fingers as they lower a great slab of marble on to its marble base. Well, they accomplish this by lowering the stone upon lumps of sugar arranged in orderly lines, and then they gradually dissolve the sugar by squirting water over it. All the huge, flat stones of old fashioned tombs or vaults are lowered by hand on to lumps of sugar."

### Names and Divorces.

An Australian divorce court judge thinks that there is a subtle connection between high sounding feminine baptismal names and matrimonial unhappiness. He has noticed that the names which generally come under his judicial cognizance are Gladys, Gwendolen, Ermyntrude and the like, and that he seldom or never in his official capacity hears of a Mary or a Bridget.

### A Tune or a Joke.

"Was that a bonafide piece that Ethelinda was playing?" asked Mr. Cumrox.

"Certainly," answered his wife. "That was a selection from Wagner."

"Well, of course I wouldn't express any doubts in company, but half the time I can't tell whether Ethelinda is playing a tune or a practical joke."—Washington Star.

### Only Thinks So.

"Does that young Featherhead play poker?" asked Robinson of a mutual acquaintance.

"No," was the reply, "but he thinks that he does, and we are careful not to undeceive him."—Cincinnati Tribune.

### A Retort Courteous.

Student—There must be some mistake in my examination marking. I don't think I deserve an absolute zero.

Professor—Neither do I, but it is the lowest mark I am allowed to give.



### Had a Close Call.